

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An input moving picture signal is selectively coded by intra-picture coding or inter-picture coding in unit of frame or field to output a main bit stream. Specific frames or fields carried by the input moving picture signal are coded by intra-picture coding to output a subsidiary bit stream. The specific frames or fields are also coded by the inter-picture coding. The main and subsidiary bit streams are multiplexed so that the subsidiary bit streams are periodically inserted in the main bit stream in the vicinity of a predetermined number of the frames or fields coded by the inter-picture coding, thus generating an output bit stream. In decoding, a coding-type of the bit stream is detected and a coding-type signal is generated. The main and the subsidiary bit streams are selectively output in response to the coding-type signal in such a way that both the main and the subsidiary bit streams are output when no continuous decoding is being performed, while the main bit stream only is output when continuous decoding is being performed. The output bit stream is decoded to reproduce pictures carried by the input bit stream.

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